AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A method of providing a predetermined ~~an arbitrary~~ sound as an RBT (RingBack Tone) in a communication network, said method comprising: ~~a first step, conducted by~~

an HLR (Home Location Register) [[, of]] furnishing a call-originating exchanger with information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for a called terminal through a response message to a location request message received from the call-originating exchanger that sends the location request message to the HLR when a call connection is requested by a caller to the called terminal; ~~and a second step, conducted by~~

the call-originating exchanger [[, of]] searching for a sound code assigned to the called terminal based on the information included in the response message; [[,]] and

the call-originating exchanger providing [[a]] the caller with a pre-stored RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code as an RBT while requesting ~~making~~ a trunk connection to a call-terminating exchanger associated with the called terminal based on the response message.

2. **(currently amended)** A method of providing a predetermined ~~an arbitrary~~ sound as an RBT (RingBack Tone) in a communication network, said method comprising: ~~a first step, conducted by~~

an HLR (Home Location Register), in response to [[when]] a location request message [[is]] received from a call-originating exchanger when a ~~because of~~ call connection is requested by a

caller ~~request~~ to a called terminal, [[of]] furnishing a call-terminating exchanger associated with the called terminal with information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the called terminal through a routing information request message that is sent by the HLR to the call-terminating exchanger; ~~and a second step, conducted by~~

the call-terminating exchanger, in response to [[when]] a trunk connection request from [[a]] the call-originating exchanger, ~~is recognized, of~~ searching for a sound code assigned to the called terminal based on the information; [[,]] and

the call-terminating exchanger providing [[a]] the caller, via the call-originating exchanger, with a pre-stored RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code as an RBT.

3. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein a server separated from the call-originating exchanger and the call-terminating exchanger has a subscriber-code table where subscriber numbers are associated with sound codes individually, and the call-originating ~~or the call-terminating~~ exchanger searches for the sound code with the aid of the server.

4. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 3, wherein the call-originating ~~and the call-terminating~~ exchanger communicates ~~communicate~~ with the server based on an internet protocol in the code searching operation.

5. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein a server separated from the call-originating exchanger and the call-terminating exchanger has a subscriber-code table where subscriber numbers are associated with sound codes individually, and ~~the call-originating or~~ the call-terminating exchanger searches for the sound code with the aid of the server.

6. **(new)** The method of claim 5, wherein the call-terminating exchanger communicates with the server based on an internet protocol in the code searching operation.

7. **(new)** The method of claim 1, further comprising

locally storing a plurality of RBT-replacing sounds in a database of the call-originating exchanger; and

the call-originating exchanger searching among the RBT-replacing sounds stored in the database for the RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code and providing the found RBT-replacing sound to the caller.

8. **(new)** The method of claim 1, wherein the response message returned from the HLR to the call-originating exchanger includes not only said information but also routing information furnished by the call-terminating exchanger.

9. **(new)** The method of claim 2, further comprising

locally storing a plurality of RBT-replacing sounds in a database of the call-terminating exchanger; and

the call-terminating exchanger searching among the RBT-replacing sounds stored in the database for the RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code and providing the found RBT-replacing sound to the caller via the call-originating exchanger.

10. **(new)** The method of claim 2, further comprising

the HLR maintaining, for each subscriber, a profile that includes information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the subscriber when called.

11. **(new)** A method of providing a caller with a pre-stored sound chosen by a called subscriber instead of a standard RBT (RingBack Tone), said method comprising:

an HLR (Home Location Register), in response to a location request message received from a call-originating exchanger associated with the caller, furnishing one of (1) a call-terminating exchanger associated with the called subscriber and (2) the call-originating exchanger with

information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the called subscriber;

said one of the call-originating and call-terminating exchangers then searching for a sound code assigned to the called terminal based on the information furnished by the HLR; and

said one of the call-originating and call-terminating exchangers subsequently providing the caller with an RBT-replacing sound, which is pre-stored locally at said one of the call-originating and call-terminating exchangers and associated with the found sound code, as an RBT.

12. **(new)** The method of claim 11, further comprising

the HLR maintaining, for each subscriber, a profile that includes information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the subscriber when called.

13. **(new)** The method of claim 12, wherein

said one of the call-originating and call-terminating exchangers is the call-originating exchanger.

14. **(new)** The method of claim 13, wherein

said information is returned from the HLR to the call-originating exchanger in a response message which also includes routing information furnished by the call-terminating exchanger.

15. **(new)** The method of claim 14, further comprising

the call-originating exchanger requesting the call-terminating exchanger to establish a trunk connection;

wherein the call-originating exchanger searches for the sound code before requesting the call-terminating exchanger to establish a trunk connection.

16. **(new)** The method of claim 15, wherein

the call-originating exchanger receives the found sound code before requesting the call-

terminating exchanger to establish a trunk connection.

17. **(new)** The method of claim 16, wherein

the call-originating exchanger requests the call-terminating exchanger to establish a trunk connection and provides the caller with the RBT-replacing sound at the same time.

18. **(new)** The method of claim 12, wherein

said one of the call-originating and call-terminating exchangers is the call-terminating exchanger.

19. **(new)** The method of claim 18, wherein

said information is forwarded from the HLR to the call-terminating exchanger in a routing information request message that requests the call-terminating exchanger to furnish routing information necessary for establishing a connection between the exchangers.

20. **(new)** The method of claim 19, further comprising

the call-originating exchanger requesting the call-terminating exchanger to establish a trunk connection;

wherein the call-terminating exchanger searches for the sound code in response to the call-originating exchanger's request for a trunk connection.